GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
DOWRY DEATHS
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dowry deaths reported during the last three years in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the number of accused punished during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the rising number of dowry deaths?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b) At the central level, the statistical data on crime is compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi. The Reports of NCRB do not contain the data on number of persons convicted for the offence of dowry death. However, NCRB maintains the data on conviction rate, i.e. percentage of cases that resulted in conviction to the number of cases in which trials were completed during a year. A Statement showing the number of incidents of dowry deaths reported in the country, particularly in Gujarat, along with the conviction rate of dowry death cases, based on the reports of NCRB, is attached at Annexure-I.

(c) A Statement is attached at Anexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a)&(b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 16.7.2002 BY SHR GADHAVI REGARDING DOWRY DEATHS
Incidents of dowry death cases reported and conviction rate in India as a whole and in the State of Gujarat

Year	Incidents of dowry deaths reported		Conviction rate	
	All India	Gujarat	All India	Gujarat
1997	6006	87	35.33	34.76
1998	6917	90	32.15	10.91
1999	6699	94	33.6	23.1

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 16.7.2002 BY SHR GADHAVI REGARDING DOWRY DEATHS

To prohibit giving or taking of dowry, Government has enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Sections 304B and 498A of the Indian Penal Code also deal with 'dowrydeath' and the offence of cruelty, both mental and physical, towards married woman by her husband or relatives. Section 113-B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 provides that Courts maypresume the guilt of the husband or relative who had subjected the woman to cruelty in conection with dowry.

The direct responsibility for implementing these laws is that of State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The Government has, however, advised all State Governments to appoint Dowry Prohibition Officers with independent charge and to notify rules under the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

The National Commission for Women is in the process of reviewingthe Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 to make its provisions more stringent and effective.

Since the menace of dowry is a reflection of women's low status in society, Government have taken a number of steps to raise the status of women and to change societal attitudes towards girls and women. These include media campaigns, awareness generation camps, spreading legal literacy, counselling, legal aid, support t o voluntary agencies and schemes for the socio economic empowerment of women.

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women adopted by the Government is also committed to eliminating the incidence of all forms of violence against women, including those arising from customs such as dowry.